



Materials Engineering Branch

TIP*



No. 027 Pressure Sensitive Tapes

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It is a convenient and common practice in aerospace applications, as well as in other industrial uses, to employ various pressure-sensitive tapes for a variety of temporary support purposes. In applications where cleanliness is an important consideration, it must be realized that all tapes leave a residue (some more than others) when they are removed from the surface.

This residue can remain on the surface and may outgas in a thermal or vacuum environment. The amount of outgassing will depend on specific film adhesive and the temperature/degree of vacuum to which it is exposed.

The potential residue problem may be avoided by:

1. Cleaning the surfaces from which the tape was removed with an appropriate solvent. This recommendation is appropriate for all instances where tape is removed from a surface or a part.
2. Use of a tape that meets the outgassing requirements and leaves virtually no visible residue.
3. Knowledge of the chemical composition of the adhesive and its outgassing characteristics.